

Amendment of the Abstract

The Examiner states that the Abstract is objected to because of the inclusion of legal phraseology such as “comprise” and “comprising”.

Please delete the section labeled “Abstract of the Disclosure” on page 40 of the specification and replace such deleted section with a replacement section as described below. A clean copy of the abstract is enclosed on a separate page.

Replacement Section:

Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods, systems and kits for the simultaneous or sequential analysis of ~~one or more~~ a multitude of steroid hormones by mass spectrometry are disclosed. The methods require minimal sample size and minimal preparation time. The methods ~~comprise~~ include ionizing the hormones and analyzing the hormones by mass spectrometry. In addition, methods, systems and kits for the simultaneous or sequential analysis of steroid hormones are disclosed ~~comprising~~ including ionization of the steroid hormones by photoionization.